

✓ Please replace the heading beginning at page 1, line 1, with the following heading:

--FIELD OF THE INVENTION--

✓ Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 2, with the following rewritten paragraph:

✓ a1
The present invention relates to an information recording medium from which information can be reproduced by the utilization of near-field light, and to an information reproducing apparatus for reproducing information recorded with on the information recording medium. The present invention also relates to an information recording medium and to information reproducing apparatus by which tracking control is made possible.

✓ Please replace the heading beginning at page 8, line 9, with the following heading:

--SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION--

✓ Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 23, line 7, with the following rewritten paragraph:

a2
--Figs. 8(a) and 8(b) show other examples of the recorded bits of an information recording medium according to Embodiment 2.--